published in the Indian Express dated 8th July, 1997;

(b) whether any expert Committee was formed to examine and report about the modernisation programme of Rourkela and Durgapur integrated steel plants;

(c) if so, the details of the report;

(d) whether Rs. 10,000 Crore have been spent on modernisation of these two steel plants, and capacity utilisation of these plants has increased to the expected level; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof and whether an inquiry would be conducted in the whole affair and action taken against the persons responsible for the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An amount of Rs. 4472.85 crores on modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) and Rs. 3453.84 crores on modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) respectively have been spent by SAIL till 1996-97.

The modernisation programmes are in advance stages of completion in these steel plants and improvement in capacity utilisation to the envisaged level will be known on completion of the various units and their stabilisation. No Expert Committee has been formed to examine and report in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.

Decline in Growth Rate of Steel Production

1375. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate of Steel production declined sharply from 5.9% in 1995-96 to 1.6% in 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No, Sir. The production of finished carbon steel reached on all time high of 22.72 million tonnes during 1996-97, recording an increase of 6.17% over the previous year.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Total land under the control of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1376. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total extent of land under the control of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that similar plants overseas require much less land;

(c) whether there is any possibility of reducing the extent of V.S.P. in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) 20485 acres of land is presently under the control of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) in Andhra Pradesh. Land requirement for a steel plant depends on steel making capacity, the future plans and facilities provided for. Therefore no generalised comparision with steel plants abroad may be possible.

Dumping of imported steel in the company

1377. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints about dumping of imported steel in the country; and